

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MTN, MX

SUBJECT: LIVESTOCK IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

1. LIVESTOCK DIVISION OF MEXICAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (SAG) HAS
RECENTLY ISSUED DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS COVERING IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR

ALL TYPES OF BREEDING STOCK. THESE NEW REGULATIONS HAVE CAUSED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG SOME MEXICAN IMPORTERS AND BREEDERS
IN TEXAS WHO HAVE SEVERAL SALES SCHEDULED THIS MONTH. AGATT HAS BEEN
CALLED BY OFFICES OF CONGRESSMAN WHITE AND SENATOR TOWER.

2. AGATT HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH SUBSECRETARY ZIEROLD REGARDING
THE RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF REGULATIONS AND MET WITH DIRECTOR
GENERAL SOLANO YESTERDAY FOR DETAILED REVIEW OF NEW REGULATIONS.
DETAILED REGULATIONS WILL BE FORWARDED BY POUCH BUT MAIN FEATURES
CAUSING PROBLEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IMPORT LICENSES FROM LIVESTOCK DIVISION
(INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE LICENSES NO LONGER REQUIRED, EXCEPT FOR HORSES),

IMPORTERS MUST SHOW THAT THE BUYER IS A MEMBER OF THE CORRESPONDING
MEXICAN BREED ASSOCIATION OR HAS INITIATED STEPS TO BECOME A MEMBER.

B) PRESENT A LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATION INDICATING THAT ANIMALS
OF THE QUALITY AND PRICE LEVEL BEING IMPORTED ARE NOT AVAILABLE
IN MEXICO.

C) AFTER THE ANIMALS ARRIVE IN MEXICO THEY MUST BE REGISTERED
IN THE IMPORTER'S NAME WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE LOCAL BREED

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ASSOCIATION.

3. WE WERE ASSURED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE AUGUST, ALTHOUGH SOME PROVISIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED, ARE NOT INTENDED TO KEEP OUT IMPORTS. MOST ASSOCIATIONS APPEAR TO BE GRANTING LETTER ROUTINELY AND IMPORTS ARE CONTINUING AT RELATIVELY HIGH LEVELS. APPARENTLY, AT PRESENT THEY ARE ENFORCING THE REQUIREMENT UNDER 2(A) ABOVE MORE VIGOROUSLY THAN 2(B). CHAROLAIS ASSOCIATION SALES REPRESENTATIVE CURRENTLY IN MEXICO HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONSUMMATE SALES IN GUADALAJARA, SO THAT BUYERS APPARENTLY ARE STILL ABLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY LETTER. FYI SOLANO NOTED THAT CHAROLAIS, CEBU AND SWINE ASSOCIATIONS ARE MOST VIGILANT IN SEEING REQUIREMENTS ENFORCED. DIRECTOR GENERAL ALSO MENTIONED THAT LETTERS ARE NOT BEING REQUIRED AT PRESENT FOR HOLSTEIN, HEREFORD AND ANGUS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GOATS AND SHEEP ALSO NOT BEING RIGIDLY ENFORCED BECAUSE OF GREAT NEED FOR THESE AT PRESENT. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THIS TYPE OF RESTRICTION, I.E. DELEGATION OF IMPORT AUTHORITY TO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE BIASED INTEREST IN KEEPING PRODUCT OUT OF COUNTRY, BE INCLUDED IN ANY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT NON-TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEXICO IN GENEVA. IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INCLUDE THIS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT FORTHCOMING INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS.
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